

ACADEMIC INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL

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Internet Address

<http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/oas/ais>

The Academic Instructor School (AIS) is the teachers' college for the Air Force. Widely acclaimed by civilian and military educators, AIS is known throughout the DOD for its role in satisfying the requirements of the Air Force for educated instructors and for its unique contributions to the field of education. The school began operations in 1948 at Craig AFB, Alabama, as part of the Special Staff School. It moved to Maxwell AFB, Alabama, in 1950 and has been in continuous operation since then. Thousands of instructors have completed AIS in residence, including international military personnel from more than 60 countries.

AIS prepares AF and other DOD personnel to teach in diverse educational environments using state-of-the-art educational skills and technologies. The school provides AF and selected DOD instructors with student-centered learning experiences through supervised practice of carefully defined methods of instruction that aid in

- applying basic principles of learning to specific learning situations,
- designing instruction to achieve effective learning outcomes,
- using an instructional systems design (ISD) approach in developing curriculum and teaching methodologies,
- using sound teaching methods including advanced distributed learning (ADL) education,
- communicating effectively,
- evaluating the achievement of learning objectives, and
- developing attitudes appropriate for Air Force and DOD instructional situations.

AIS has initiated several improvements based on graduate and supervisor surveys, student critiques, and advances in educational methods and technologies. These innovations include

- ensuring that instructional models and components are consistent with the developmental nature of learning, and
- researching and determining sound applications of computers and technology in education and using the current technology to educate teachers.

Curriculum

AIS bases its curriculum on learning theory, focusing primarily on the use of developmental cognitive and affective taxonomies in planning, delivering, and evaluating instruction. AIS places major emphasis on development of instructional competencies. However, faculty members devote significant time to exploring student characteristics, learning styles, educational theory, attitudinal development, and instructional design.

AIS faculty and staff focus the school's curriculum on educational foundations, methods of instruction and communication skills. The AIS curriculum incorporates the following six teaching methods: informal lectures, guided discussion, teaching interviews, demonstration performance, case study, and experiential exercises (games and simulations). AIS curriculum design and development efforts also encompass the development of sound test questions, an introduction to evaluation, performance evaluation, feedback, test item analysis, and concept and principle teaching. The AIS faculty reviews and oversees revisions of Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2236, *Guidebook for Air Force Instructors*.

Duration and Quota

AIS conducts seven, four-week classes each year with approximately 80 students in each class. Specific class dates and attendance authorizations are announced through the Oracle Training Administration (OTA), Education and Training MILPDS Procedures.

Prerequisites and Selection

Selection for AIS attendance is managed by AF MAJCOMs, other DOD users, and government agency school administrators using criteria outlined in the *Air Force Education and Training Course Announcements (ETCA)*, formerly Air Force Catalog (AFCAT) 36-2223, *USAF Formal Schools*. Additionally, international officers are selected to attend by their countries of origin in coordination with IOS.

Regular Academic Instructor Course (MAIS001)

This course is four weeks long and consists of 157 hours. The ratio of lecture to seminar activities is approximately 20 percent large group to 80 percent small group instruction.

Curriculum Summary

Area of Instruction	Academic Hours
Administrative	6
Educational Foundations	7
Communication Skills	10
Methods	72
Instructional Media	1
Evaluation	18
Instructional Design	42
Instructional Technology	1
TOTAL	157

Specialized Courses

AIS offers special short courses in addition to the regular course. These courses are tailored to specific audiences and emphasize applying basic principles of learning to specific learning situations, planning meaningful instruction, using sound teaching methods, communicating effectively, and evaluating the achievement of learning objectives. These courses are as follows.

Air War College Instructor Course. Prepares instructors to teach at AWC.

Air Command and Staff College Instructor Course. Prepares ACSC faculty for their instructional duties.

Air Force Institute of Technology Academic Instructor Course. Prepares instructors and faculty for AFIT's in-residence programs.

AF Reserve Officer Training Corps Academic Instructor Course. Prepares ROTC instructors for teaching at the college level.

AF Junior ROTC Academic Instructor Course. Educates instructors who teach at the junior high and high school levels.

AIS Specialized Courses. A two-week mobile course and special two-week courses for instructors at the Squadron Officer School, AF Reserves, Chaplains Service Institute, and other specialized audiences.

AIS Course for Teleseminar Instructors. Teaches instructors how to teach via interactive television.

Dental Resident Graduate Student Instructional Mobile Course.
Prepares instructors for dental resident graduate program at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Air Force ROTC Noncommissioned Officers Orientation Course.
Prepares ROTC NCOs for assignments to their detachments.

Academic Credit

Through affiliation with the Community College of the Air Force, graduates of AIS who enroll in the CCAF automatically receive 10 semester hours of credit for the four-week Academic Instructor Course and four semester hours of credit for the two-week AIS Specialized Course. Graduates may receive transcripts reflecting these credit hours by contacting the Registrar, CCAF/RRR, 130 W. Maxwell Blvd., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6613.

[*Back To Table Of Contents*](#)